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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/476,862 01/03/00 TSUKIHASHI

A 005586-20026

EXAMINER

TM02/0801

LOEB & LOEB
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LOS ANGELES CA 90067-4164

PATEL, G

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2651
DATE MAILED:

08/01/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/476,862

Applicant(s)

Tsukihashi

Examiner

Gautam R. Patel

Art Unit

2183

— The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address —

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE three MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on May 16, 2000

2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 35 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application

4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirements

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:

- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____
- ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____

16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

17) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 3

20) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-12 are pending for the examination.

Priority

2. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Specification

3. The disclosure is objected for following reasons.

The title of the invention is neither precise nor descriptive. A new title is required which should include, using twenty words or fewer, claimed features that differentiate the invention from the Prior Art.

Correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. § 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3, 6-9 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Shinada et al., US. patent 5,436,875 (hereafter Shinada).

As to claim 1, Shinada discloses the invention as claimed [see Figs. 1-16] including a buffer memory, a data processing circuit and a system control circuit, comprising:

- a. a buffer memory [fig. 1, units 18 and 22] for temporarily storing the received data [col. 6, lines 1-5];
- b. a data processing circuit [fig. 1, units 14 and 6] for preparing the recording data to record onto the disk, based on the received data read from the buffer memory [col. 6, lines 54-59; and
- c. a system control circuit [fig. 1, unit 10] for controlling writing and reading of the received data with respect to the buffer memory, and operation of the data processing circuit [col. 5, lines 40-42 and col. 5, lines 65-68], wherein the system control circuit suspends operation of the data processing circuit until an amount of received data equivalent to a predetermined writing capacity has been stored in the buffer memory, and releases suspension of the operation of the data processing circuit when an amount of received data equivalent to the predetermined writing capacity has been stored in the buffer memory [col. 8, lines 19-55].

5. As to claim 2, Shinada discloses:

a writing circuit [fig. 1, unit 4] for writing the recorded data supplied from the data processing circuit, onto the disk, wherein the system control circuit stores an address successive to an address of received data last recorded onto the disk, as a recording start address on the disk, and controls the writing circuit so as to write the recording data supplied from the data processing circuit onto the disk at the recording start address [col. 5, lines 60-64 and col. 12, lines 48-60].

6. As to claim 3, Shinada discloses:

the system control circuit synchronizes the recording data to be newly recorded onto the disk, supplied from the data processing circuit to the writing circuit, with recording data recorded on the disk [col. 6, lines 12-28].

7. As to claim 6, Shinada discloses:

the writing capacity of the buffer memory is set at full memory capacity of the buffer memory deducted by an amount of data expected to be written into the buffer memory before data recording onto the disk is resumed [col. 6, lines 16-23].

8. As to claim 7, it is rejected for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claims 1 and 2, supra.

9. As to claims 8-9, they are rejected for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claims 2-3, supra.

10. As to claim 12, it is rejected for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 6, supra.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

11. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under subsection (f) or (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person.

12. Claims 4-5 and 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shinada as applied to claims 1-3, 6-9 and 12 above.

As to claim 4, Shinada discloses:

a motor control circuit [fig. 1, unit 7] for controlling a motor for driving the disk, wherein the motor control circuit controls the motor such that the disk rotates, while operation of the data processing circuit is suspended [col. 5, line 40 to col. 6, line 40];

Shinada does not specifically disclose that speed of the disk before and after the suspension of the data recording is same. "Official Notice" is taken that both the concept and the advantages of providing a constant speed before and after the suspension of data recording are well known. It would have been obvious to provide a constant speed to Shinada's system as this constant speed is known to provide the system with less amount of control so as not to vary the speed while data is buffered thus reducing power consumption and control circuitry to vary the speed. These concepts are well known in the art and do not constitute a patentably distinct limitation, per se [M.P.E.P. 2144.03].

13. As to claim 5 Shinada does not specifically disclose that the buffer memory is set at a full memory capacity. "Official Notice" is taken that both the concept and the advantages of setting the buffer memory capacity at full capacity are well known in the art. It would have been obvious to provide a full capacity to buffer memory in Shinada's system as this setting the capacity to full allows the system to use the full capability of the buffer. Since real estate in the integrated circuits and on the board are at premium one of ordinary skill in the art would have been able to provide the mechanism to use full capability of the buffer so as not to

waste premium space in the buffer. These concepts are well known in the art and do not constitute a patentably distinct limitation, per se [M.P.E.P. 2144.03].

14. As to claim 10, it is rejected for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 4, supra.
15. As to claim 11, it is rejected for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 5, supra.

Other prior art cited

16. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
 - a. Kaneda et al. (US. patent 5,958,067) "Array type disk system updating redundant data asynchronously with data access".

Contact information

17. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gautam R. Patel whose telephone number is (703) 308-7940. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 7:30 to 6.

The appropriate fax number for the organization (Group 2650) where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9314.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. David Hudspeth, can be reached on (703) 308-4825.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700 or the group Customer Service section whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

CRP

Gautam R. Patel
Patent Examiner
Group Art Unit 2651

July 24, 2001

David Hudspeth

DAVID HUDSPETH
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